

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01012 152343Z

15

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TAGS: AORG, PORG, SOPN, UNGA

SUBJ: UN: CONSULTATIVE PANEL ON PUBLIC INFORMATION, MARCH

11 AND 12, 1976

1. SUMMARY: CONSULTATIVE PANEL ON PUBLIC INFORMATION (CPPI) MET ON MARCH 11 AND 12 AND DISCUSSED PROGRAM OF OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION (OPI) WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON UN INFORMATION CENTERS. THIS MESSAGE GIVEN HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSION. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE LATER IN UN DOCUMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. SYG WALDHEIM OPENED ANNUAL MEETING OF CPPI WITH BRIEF STATEMENT EMPHASIZING THE FACT THAT MANY WORLD CONFLICTS MUST BE RESOLVED WITHIN THE UN, SINCE THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE. HE URGED THAT OPI TRY TO PRESENT THE UN TO THE PUBLIC IN SIMPLER TERMS.

3. STATEMENTS BY AMBASSADORS OF JAPAN (SAITO), NETHERLANDS (KAUFMANN), AND ITALY (VINCI) STRESSED THE NEED FOR COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF INFORMATION SERVICES OF THE UN, THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER SPECIAL UN PROGRAMS. THEY COMMENDED OPI FOR THE DOCUMENTATION PRESENTED TO CPPI AND URGED REPLACEMENT OF NON-JOURNALIST DIRECTORS OF UN INFORMATION CENTERS WITH TRUE PROFESSIONALS.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01012 152343Z

4. PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR (ALZAMORA) PRESENTED DIATRIBE

AGAINST INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES, STATING THAT US MEDIA DOES NOT PRESENT A FAIR PICTURE OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO). HE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE NON-ALIGNED THREAT AT MANILA TO EMBARGO RAW MATERIALS WORLDWIDE IF NECESSARY IN ORDER TO GET IMPLEMENTATION OF NIEO. IN GENERAL, ALZAMORA PRAISED OPI PERFORMANCE.

5. US DEL (SHELDON) AGREED WITH SYG THAT UN IS NOT DYING AND THAT IT IS A USEFUL FORUM FOR RECINCILING DIFFERENCES. HE DENIED THAT NEGATIVE VIEW OF UN IS RESULT OF POOR OPI REPORTING, SINCE THE PROBLEM IS WHAT THE UN IS DOING. SHELDON SAID WE DO NOT WANT OPI TO VIOLATE ITS MANDATE BY CHANGING THE FACTS OR BY IMAGE MAKING. HE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, IN CONTRAST TO THE CONFRONTATION AT THE SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION. AFTER A FEW COMMENTS ON OPERATIONS OF UN INFORMATION CENTERS -- INCLUDING THE NEED FOR BETTER COORDINATION WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER UN PROGRAMS -- SHELDON CALLED ATTENTION TO DUPLICATION BETWEEN LENGTHY OPI PRESS RELEASES ON UN MEETINGS AND SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE SAME MEETINGS. HE ALSO COMMENDED OPI FOR PROPOSALS TO ELIMINATE OBSOLETE PROGRAMS, SUCH AS SHORT-WAVE BROADCASTS.

6. SWEDISH, INDIAN AND FRENCH DELS MADE SPECIFIC REQUESTS, SUCH AS INCREASED COVERAGE OF DISARMAMENT ACTIVITIES, IMPROVED SERVICING OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, EMPLOYMENT OF MORE PERSONNEL FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, BETTER COVERAGE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES, ETC.

7. POLISH, ROMANIAN AND SOVIET DELS EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF DISARMAMENT AND OTHER PEACE AND SECURITY ISSUES, URGING THAT OPI DEVOTE A GREATER PORTION OF ITS OUTPUT TO THESE SUBJECTS. SOVIET DEL ASKED THAT ENTIRE TEXT OF FINAL INSTRUMENT OF CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (CSCE) BE PUBLISHED IN UN MONTHLY CHRONICLE. (CANADIAN AND UK DELS QUESTIONED UN AUTHORITY TO DO SO).

8. JAPANESE DEL (AKASHI) MADE SEVERAL CONSTRUCTIVE
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 USUN N 01012 152343Z

SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING MOBILITY OF OPI STAFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE INTEGRATION OF UN INFORMATION CENTERS WITH OTHER UN SYSTEM ACTIVITIES.

9. ASYG AKATANI AND HIS STAFF REPLIED TO VARIOUS SPECIFIC QUESTIONS, ELABORATING ON DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO CPPI (COPIES POUCHED TO IO/BLACHLY).
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